

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method in one or more computer systems for identifying auctions offering units of the same item, comprising:

displaying information about a first auction, the information including a description of a first item unit offered in the first auction;

receiving user input requesting information about other auctions offering item units that are units of the same item as the first item unit;

determining, for the description of the first item unit among descriptions of item units offered in a group of auctions including the first auction, the inverse document frequency of terms occurring within the description of the first item unit;

selecting a plurality of terms within the description of the first item unit having the largest inverse document frequencies;

for each of the selected terms, conducting a search for auctions in the group whose item descriptions contain the selected term;

for each auction found in at least one of the conducted searches, determining which of the selected terms occur in the auction's item description;

identifying as an auction offering an item unit that is a unit of the same item as the first item unit an auction among the found auctions where the sum of the inverse document frequencies of the selected terms that occur in the item description for the auction exceeds a threshold; and

displaying information about the identified auction.

2-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying information about at least a portion of the found auctions.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein selecting the plurality of terms includes comparing the inverse document frequency of each of the terms occurring within the description of the first item with a minimum threshold.

58. (New) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause one or more computer systems to perform a method for identifying auctions offering units of the same item, the method comprising:

displaying information about a first auction, the information including a description of a first item unit offered in the first auction;

receiving user input requesting information about other auctions offering item units that are units of the same item as the first item unit;

determining, for the description of the first item unit among descriptions of item units offered in a group of auctions including the first auction, the inverse document frequency of terms occurring within the description of the first item unit;

selecting a plurality of terms within the description of the first item unit having the largest inverse document frequencies;

for each of the selected terms, conducting a search for auctions in the group whose item descriptions contain the selected term;

for each auction found in at least one of the conducted searches, determining which of the selected terms occur in the auction's item description;

identifying as an auction offering an item unit that is a unit of the same item as the first item unit an auction among the found auctions where the sum of the inverse document frequencies of the selected terms that occur in the item description for the auction exceeds a threshold; and

displaying information about the identified auction.

59. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 58, the method further comprising displaying information about at least a portion of the found auctions.

60. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 58 wherein selecting the plurality of terms includes comparing the inverse document frequency of each of the terms occurring within the description of the first item with a minimum threshold.

61. (New) A computer system comprising a processor and memory adapted to perform a method for identifying auctions offering units of the same item, the method comprising:

causing to be displayed information about a first auction, the information including a description of a first item unit offered in the first auction;

receiving user input requesting information about other auctions offering item units that are units of the same item as the first item unit;

determining, for the description of the first item unit among descriptions of item units offered in a group of auctions including the first auction, the inverse document frequency of terms occurring within the description of the first item unit;

selecting a plurality of terms within the description of the first item unit having the largest inverse document frequencies;

for each of the selected terms, conducting a search for auctions in the group whose item descriptions contain the selected term;

for each auction found in at least one of the conducted searches, determining which of the selected terms occur in the auction's item description;

identifying as an auction offering an item unit that is a unit of the same item as the first item unit an auction among the found auctions where the sum of the inverse document frequencies of the selected terms that occur in the item description for the auction exceeds a threshold; and

causing to be displayed information about the identified auction.

62. (New) The computer system of claim 61, the method further comprising displaying information about at least a portion of the found auctions.

63. (New) The computer system of claim 61 wherein selecting the plurality of terms includes comparing the inverse document frequency of each of the terms occurring within the description of the first item with a minimum threshold.